

Message Text

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APPROVED BY AF - EWMULCAHY

AF/S - RTHAVERKAMP

S/S - LCJOHNSTONE

M:LSEAGLEBURGER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 180498 TOSEC 080200

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PORS, AO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - ANGOLA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ACTING ASST. SECY MULCAHY

1. POLITICAL: IN SEQUENTIAL COMMUNIQUE JULY 25, FNLA AND MPLA, IN EFFECT, FORMALLY DECLARED WAR ON EACH OTHER. FNLA'S HOLDEN ROBERTO CALLED FOR "TOTAL WAR IN ALL PARTS OF ANGOLA". MPLA REPLIED BY PROCLAIMING "GENERALIZED POPULAR RESISTANCE...TO FNLA'S DECLARATION OF WAR". ON JULY 28, PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER CARDOSO TOLD OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN LUANDA THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED TO LISBON THAT GOP DENOUNCE THE ALVOR AGREEMENT (REACHED IN JANUARY WITH THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS) BECAUSE OF NON-COMPLIANCE BY THE GROUPS. HE SAID VIRTUALLY EVERYONE CONCERNED IN THE GOP WANT TO FIND SOME OTHER MODALITY TO END STRIFE AND MOVE ANGOLA TOWARD INDEPENDENCE IN REASONABLY ORDERLY FASHION, BUT THAT ALL VIABLE ALTERNATIVES SEEM TO POINT TO INCREASINGLY ACTIVE PORTUGUESE INVOLVEMENT IN PACIFICATION EFFORTS, WHICH CARDOSO APPARENTLY BELIEVES UNFEASIBLE. MEANWHILE, MPLA'S AGOSTINHO NETO SAID IN RADIO SPEECH
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JULY 28 THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT REVISION OF ALVOR IF IT MEANT EARLY DEPARTURE OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS, WHOM HE CALLED ENEMIES OF ANGOLAN PEOPLE (THIS REMARK SPURRED BY SEVERE PORTUGUESE REPRISAL AGAINST MPLA HEADQUARTERS IN LUANDA

FOLLOWING INCIDENT IN WHICH TWO PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS

WOUNDED BY MPLA FORCES).

2. MILITARY: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN AND AROUND LUANDA REMAINS UNCHANGED, WITH LUANDA ITSELF RELATIVELY QUIET. FNLA FORCES IN CAXITO, SOME 35 MILES NORTH OF LUANDA, HAVE NOT YET INDICATED THEIR INTENTIONS. TO THE EAST, FNLA REPORTEDLY CAPTURED THE MPLA STRONGHOLD OF MALANGE, BUT MPLA CONTROLS THE ROAD FROM THERE TO LUANDA. FURTHER EAST, MPLA REPORTEDLY CONTROLS HENRIQUE DE CARVALHO AND PORTUGALIA, ON ANGOLA'S NORTHEAST BORDER WITH ZAIRE. TO THE SOUTH, SOME FIGHTING IS REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE PORTS OF LOBITO, NOVO REDONDO AND PORTO AMBOIM.

3. EVACUATION: ALL AIRLINES EXCEPT PORTUGAL'S TAP AND ITS AFFILIATES, TAAG AND DETA, WILL HAVE SUSPENDED OPERATIONS TO OR IN ANGOLA. FRANCE, ITALY, THE FRG AND BELGIUM ARE SENDING AIRCRAFT, PROBABLY A POOLED ONE, TO TAKE THEIR CITIZENS OUT JULY 31. WE ARE STANDING BY AND ARE READY TO HAVE A COMMERCIAL CHARTER AIRCRAFT IN LUANDA WITHIN A MAXIMUM OF 24 HOURS FROM OUR RECEIPT OF A REQUEST FOR IT FROM OUR CONSUL GENERAL. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE SITUATION NOW REQUIRES EVACUATION OF OUR CONSULATE-GENERAL STAFF; THE BRITISH APPEAR TO HAVE OVER-REACTED TO ONE UNCONFIRMED INTELLIGENCE REPORT IN PULLING THEIR CONSULAR STAFF OUT ON SUNDAY. WE ARE CONTINUING TO URGE, AND TO ASSIST, PRIVATE CITIZENS TO LEAVE.
INGERSOLL

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